Glorifying outlawed customs and practices

2687. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the Government's notice that many TV channels are telecasting serials glorifying outlawed customs and practices like child marriage and bigamy causing adverse affects on the minds of viewers particularly youth and children; and

(b) if so, the precautionary measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) No such formal study has been brought to the notice of the Government. However, a complaint of promoting and glorifying child marriage in tele serial 'Balika Vadhu' was received in the Ministry.

(b) There is no pre-censorship of the Programme telecast on Private TV channels. However, all programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Action is taken as per rules whenever violation of Codes is brought to the notice of the Government.

In the case as referred to (a) above the matter was examined in the Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Women and Child Development and it was found that the serial had been conceptualized to highlight the evils of child marriage and that the serial does not air to glorify the issue of child marriage. On account of intervention by the Ministry, the Channel also took a proactive stand and started displaying repeated short messages to convey the evils of child marriage during the promos of the serial in a more pointed manner.

Deployment of retired judges for disposal of pending cases

2688. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to deploy retired district judges to dispose huge number of pending cases;

(b) if so, whether the supporting staff would also be similarly recruited or existing staff would be sufficient;

(c) whether the trial court judges are likely to be provided with laptops for expediting disposal of pending cases; and

(d) whether the court functionaries like 'Ahalmads' or other supporting staff would also be suitably trained?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.